In the case of aircraft carrier (ex-Admiral Gorshkov), it is apprehended that some delay may take place in the project due to unforeseen problems. At present, the Russian authorities are seized of the issue of timely delivery of the ship. Payments relating to certain works are negotiable under the contract. Details in this regard would be available only after negotiations are complete. The project is being closely monitored.

An Inter-Governmental Agreement was signed with the Russian Government for licence manufacture of Su-30 MKI aircraft. The year-wise escalation rate which was agreed to between the two countries was valid up to December, 2007. It was agreed to review the rate for subsequent years. Negotiations for finalizing the rate of escalation are in progress.

Light weight force multiplier equipment by DRDO

2347. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DRDO is working on a project aiming to equip future soldiers with light weight force multipliers with miniaturized communication and GPS system, etc., akin to the U.S. Army's Land Warriors;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the infantryman at present carries a lot of weight and by reducing it, they can perform better in battle and counter insurgency operations; and

(c) if so, by when the DRDO sponsored project is going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is formulating a project, to equip the future soldier with light weight systems. The proposed system will enhance the capabilities and effectiveness of the soldiers, and they will perform better.

(c) The objective and scope of project are being discussed with Army. The development time would be about 5 years.

NHRC's suggestions for categorizing certain offences as federal crimes

2348. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Human Rights Commission has suggested that certain offences should be categorized as "federal crimes" to be handled by only a central agency;

(b) if so, keeping in view the challenges ahead relating to terrorism, drug trafficking, and other organized crimes, having national and international ramifications, Government agree with this suggestion;

(c) whether Government propose to undertake this exercise of categorization as "federal crimes"; and

(d) if so, what is the time-frame and details regarding constitution of any specialized body to undertake this task?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 310 of 1996 in the matter of Shri Prakash Singh and other versus Union of India and Others, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has filed their views regarding 'Federal Crimes and their investigation by a Central Agency' before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the said case and has, *inter-alia*, recommended that Central Bureau of Investigation should have concurrent jurisdiction to investigate federal crimes. The matter is *sub-judice*.

(b) to (d) As far as Government of India is concerned, the matter is being discussed with the State Governments and, as such, it is not possible to indicate any details or time-frame at this stage.

Banning horse racing in Karnataka

2349. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal by the Karnataka Government to ban horse racing in the same way as lottery was banned;

(b) if so, when it will come into effect; and;

(c) whether there is a plan to shift Bangalore Turf Club to some other place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government of Karnataka.

Rise in loot and murder in Delhi

†2350. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of loot and murders are on the increase in the recent months in Delhi at the time of withdrawing money from the banks, and the places like Noida, Ring Road, Mayur Vihar-I and Karol Bagh are prominent places among them for such incidents; and

(b) if so, whether the Delhi Police are working on the possibilities of some sort of connivance between the banks and looters for tipping off the information to the latter regarding withdrawal of money from the banks?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.